

The Laurens Advertiser.

VOLUME XXXV.

LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1919.

NUMBER 4

J. H. PITTS CLAIMS OPTION HAD EXPIRED

More Light is Thrown on
Clinton Affair

CLAIMS NEWSPAPERS AROUSSED PREJUDICE

One of Defendants in Suit Brought
Against Clinton Citizens to Force
Execution of Options Claims that He
has Fulfilled His Part of the Agree-
ment.

The Advertiser has been handed the
following by Mr. John H. Pitts, of Clinton,
with a request for its publication:
Editor The Advertiser:

Your issue of July 31 carried an
article at head of first column on first
page entitled "Building Operations
Delayed at Clinton."

In this article it is stated that in
order to facilitate the erection of the
buildings for the home for the feeble-
minded near Clinton suits had been
commenced against me and another
to force execution of options alleged to
have been given some time ago. The
further statement is made, "A few
months ago Messrs. Pitts and Copeland
signified their unwillingness to
allow the options to be executed and
it is understood that their action has
held up the plans of the board." The
latter statement is made without qual-
ification and does me an injustice, I
hope unintentionally.

While I do not care to have the suit
against me tried in the newspapers,
still I feel that it is due to me that I
make the statement that the option
given by me failed through no fault
of mine, but on account of its terms
not being complied with by the other
party. I was always willing to carry
out the option as long as it was in ex-
istence, and when interested parties
allowed it to expire without complying
with its terms, it is entirely unfair
for the charge to me made that I was
unwilling to comply with it, and that
a suit is necessary to force me to com-
ply. I am ready to meet any issue
made in the proper tribunal, and I
protest against such statements as
those referred to in your article, es-
pecially after suit brought, whereby
unwarranted prejudice may be aroused
against me in the mind of the pub-
lic who are not given all the facts.
My option was given to expire on Sep-
tember 1st, 1918, and at this late date,
after a long failure to comply with its
terms on the part of the persons to
whom it was given it is unfair that
I should be put in the wrong before
the public, and before a hearing is
granted me. They failed to take the
land, I did not refuse to let them have
it, until long after the option expired
when they tried to buy at a higher
price.

I will ask that you give this letter
the same position in your next issue
that you gave to the article referred
to; and will ask that the Clinton
Chronicle publish it also as it car-
ried in this week's issue a letter signed
"J" referring to the same matter
though no names were called.

Very truly yours,
J. H. Pitts.

Clinton, S. C., Aug. 1, 1919.

The following is a copy of the al-
leged option as furnished by Mr.
Pitts and as is also included in the
complaint of the plaintiffs:

I agree to establish lines and fur-
nish sound titles promptly after sale.
For value received (advertising,
etc.) I hereby place the following de-
scribed property to wit: 60 acres land
near Clinton in Laurens County,
bounded on North by R. M. League,
East by H. Copeland, South by Mrs.
Sue Pitts, West by H. Copeland, with
W. M. Sumerel, Broker, from August
20, 1918, until September 1, 1918, and
authorize him to sell said property
for the sum of \$2,000.00 on the fol-
lowing terms: Cash; and in case a sale
is made by him, or anyone else, dur-
ing the life of this contract, I agree
to refer all applicants for the prop-
erty to said W. M. Sumerel, Broker, and
render him all the assistance and in-
formation possible.

J. H. PITTS, (Seal)
Witness my hand and seal,
R. H. HATTON, Witness.

The contention of the plaintiffs, as
gathered from their complaint, is that
the plaintiffs duly accepted the option
in writing three days after it was given
and that the defendant executed
and deposited a deed with the char-

SECTIONAL MASS MEETINGS FOR BAPTIST CAMPAIGN

Sectional Mass Meetings to be Held
in at Least Five Cities and Smaller
Meetings Elsewhere.

Greenville, Aug. 9.—Large sectional
mass meetings of Baptists of South
Carolina are to be held in October and
November in at least five cities, to be
addressed by such famous Baptists as
Dr. George W. Truett, of Dallas, Texas,
and Mr. M. H. Wolf, a layman member
of the Southern Baptist Convention
Campaign Commission, in the interest
of the Baptist 75 Million Campaign to
be held Nov. 30 to Dec. 7. In making
announcement of these plans here to-
day at state campaign headquarters,
Publicity Director Thomas J. Watts
stated that, in addition to these sec-
tional mass meetings, many local gath-
erings are to be held and addressed by
Four-Minute Men. Between 2,500 and
5,000 laymen of the state, Rev. Watts
stated, will be appointed as Four-
Minute Men to speak on many and var-
ious occasions in behalf of the drive.
South Carolina's quota in the cam-
paign is five and a half millions.

MEETING OF FARMERS.

Farmers to Meet Here Next Tuesday
to Perfect Plans for Securing Cotton
Grader.

A mass meeting of farmers and other
business men has been called by
County Agent M. D. Moore to meet in
the court house Tuesday, the 19th, at
11 o'clock for the purpose of perfect-
ing plans of organization necessary
in backing up the work of the govern-
ment cotton grader in the county this
fall and winter.

Mr. Moore states that speakers from
Clemson College and Washington,
who are familiar with the govern-
ment's plan of assisting in grading
and marketing cotton have been in-
vited to address this mass meeting,
and he urges everyone interested in
greasing county in South Carolina, to
making Laurens county the most pro-
tendent.

R. T. Wilson Buys.

R. T. Wilson, superintendent of edu-
cation, has bought the B. L. Clardy
bungalow on Church street now occu-
pied by Mr. Hough. Mr. Wilson ex-
pects to take possession as soon as
Mr. Hough is able to find another
place. The deal was made through
B. M. Wolf, who also reports the sale
of a lot adjoining Mr. Ross D. Young
to Mr. Fred Fuller, who expects to
build at an early date.

Claude Wasson Dead.

Claude Wasson, of the Friendship
section, died in Columbia last week
and his body carried out to Friendship
burying ground for burial. Death fol-
lowed a nervous breakdown thought
to have been due to worry and over-
work during the illness of his uncle,
Mr. Sam Wasson, who died several
weeks ago.

man of the committee in Clinton, but
instructed him not to deliver it un-
til instructed to do so by him. The
plaintiffs further allege that a flaw
was found in the title to the land and
that Mr. Pitts refused and neglected
to have this remedied although he could
have done so and that finally this was
done by the chairman of the Clinton
Committee. It is further alleged that
the deed tendered by the defendant
was not correctly stated and that a
new deed was caused to be drawn up
and tendered to him for his signature
and he was requested to execute the
same, which he has refused to do, or
to execute and deliver conditionally.
The plaintiffs allege that they have
always been ready and still are to
fulfill the agreement on their part.

Mr. Pitts sates that he was first
proffered payment for the land on
April 15th, although he had asked
Mr. Boyd, chairman of the Clinton
committee, in reference to it several
times previous to that date and that he
notified Mr. Boyd in February that he
was going to take charge of the land
and farm on it, considering this a no-
tice that the deal was off.

The Advertiser, of course, is unable
to pass on the legal phases of the case
as that is to be decided in the courts.
However, it was informed by persons
both in Laurens and Clinton consid-
ered reliable as to the facts as carried
in its columns and published them in
good faith. If it so turns out that Mr.
Pitts and Mr. Copeland are vindicated
in the courts The Advertiser will be
glad to give due publicity thereto and
render whatever assistance it can in
remedying the wrong complained of.

TRUSTEES DISCUSS SCHOOL LAWS

Trustees Resolve to Make Compulsory
School Attendance Law Effective at
Beginning of the School Term.

That the compulsory school attend-
ance law is to be made effective in
Laurens county during the first four
months of the school term was decided
upon at a meeting of school trustees
held Wednesday when the matter was
thoroughly discussed with Superin-
tendent of Education Swearingen, who
was present. Mr. Swearingen said
that the state board of education had
so recommended and that he believed
it within the scope of the trustees to
enforce this provision under the gen-
eral laws giving them the oversight of
the schools.

Some objections were raised to the
resolution on the grounds of its legal-
ity and because many children were
needed on the farm at that season of
the year. However, the consensus of
opinion was in favor of the resolution
and some objections were overcome
when it was stated that the attendance
officer would have the right to defer
the time of attendance for good and
sufficient reasons.

Mr. Swearingen made an address
principally devoted to an exposition
of the compulsory school laws. Rep.
D. T. Kinard was also present and
made a talk along similar lines, ex-
plaining the object of the act and giving
the viewpoint of the legislators as to
its desirability. Miss Minnie Wal-
lace, in charge of the illiteracy cam-
paign in this county, was also present
and told of the plans for summer
schools for adults and urged the ad-
vantage of pushing this work during
the remainder of the summer.

BAPTISTS PRORATE

75 MILLION FUND

Figures Given Out as to Distribution
of Huge Fund to be Raised in Cam-
paign.

Greenville, S. C., August 7.—Of
the five and a half millions which
South Carolina Baptists plan to raise
in the Baptist 75 Million Campaign
November 30 to December 7, \$2,425,-
000 will go to missions, \$2,390,000 to
education and \$685,000 to benevolence,
according to the plan of divisions an-
nounced at state headquarters here
today. The State directors, Dr. W. T.
Dericux and Dr. Charles A. Jones, the
organizer, Dr. W. J. McGlothlin, and
the Publicity Director, Rev. Thos. J.
Watts, are cooperating in perfecting
the organization for the raising of this
fund in the Palmetto State, and are
devoting their time to careful prepa-
ration for the drive.

Of the apportionment for missions,
\$1,400,000 will go to foreign missions,
\$500,000 will be spent on home mis-
sions, and \$525,000 on state missions.
\$2,290,000 of the educational quota
goes to Christian education and \$100,-
000 to ministerial education. Of the
total for benevolence, \$125,000 will be
used at the orphanage, \$160,000 at the
hospital, and \$100,000 for aged min-
isters relief.

The amount designated to Chris-
tian education is to be divided as fol-
lows:

President educational cam- paign	\$350,000
Seminary Students Fund	
Campaign	36,666
Southwide Institutions	121,667
Board of Education, Current	
work	250,000
Furman University	750,000
Greenville Woman's College	200,000
Coker College	200,000
Anderson College	200,000
Baptist Academies	178,667

Erecting Large Garage.

Ground was broken Monday morn-
ing on a modern garage building by
Mr. W. P. Childress on the vacant lot
between his stable and the stable of
P. P. & J. R. Childress. The building
will be 45x100 feet, of brick construction
and modern in every respect. The
front will be of pressed brick and the
flooring of concrete. The building will
be occupied by the Carolina Auto
Company, which sells Chalmers and
Maxwell automobiles. The contract
for the building was given to H. L.
Roper, local contractor and lumber
dealer.

To Open Plumbing Shop.

Mr. A. G. Huggins, of Bishopville,
arrived in the city yesterday to open
up a plumbing business here. He will
do a roofing business in addition to
plumbing. He has secured a shop
next door to Hicks Stable and will
open up for work at once.

GREAT IRONMASTER PASSES AWAY

Andrew Carnegie Died at Home in
Massachusetts After Brief Illness.

Lenox, Mass., August 11.—Andrew
Carnegie, iron master and philan-
thropist died today in his great man-
sion overlooking a lake in the beau-
tiful Berkshire Hills, where he sought
seclusion when bodily infirmities over-
took him and his mind was maddened
by the entrance of his country into
the world war.

Although he had been in feeble
health for more than two years, his
final illness was brief—a matter of
days. A severe cold developed quick-
ly into bronchial pneumonia, the aged
patient lapsed into unconsciousness
and the end came as though it were
but the beginning of a deeper sleep.

No ostentation will mark the fun-
eral of the man who when he began
eighteen years ago to give away his
millions, was reputed to have the sec-
ond largest fortune in America. A
simple service attended only by mem-
bers of the family and his household
will be held at the home, Shadowbrook
tomorrow or Wednesday. The time
had not been determined tonight. It
is expected that the body will be tak-
en to Pittsburgh, the city where he laid
the foundation of his wealth, for
burial.

Mrs. Carnegie was at her husband's
bedside in the last hours of his life,
but he did not revive sufficiently to
permit of any sign of recognition.
Their daughter, Margaret, who last
April married Ensign Roswell Miller,
of New York, was notified that it was
apparent that the illness would be fa-
tal, and she hurried from her home
at Milbrook, N. Y., arriving a few
minutes after her father had died.

Fine Tomatoes.

The Garden Editor of The Adver-
tiser was the recipient last Wednes-
day of the prettiest bag of tomatoes
which he has seen this season, the gift
of Miss Mary Parsons, of Lanford
Station, one of the Tomato Club girls.
The tomatoes were in varying stages
of ripeness, so that they could be used
as needed. At the bottom was a clus-
ter of fine ones that would ripen in a
few days.

Same Old Crank.

Mr. J. M. Suttles, of Owings Station,
who was with Company D in France,
received a serious wound in the arm
several days ago when the crank of a
well known make of car made a com-
puter attack on him when he tried to
crank it up. As a result of the en-
counter both bones of his right arm
above the wrist were broken and he
has suffered considerable pain and
inconvenience.

Named on Governor's Staff.

Announcement was made in Colum-
bia last week of the appointment of
Sergeant Wharton Fuller, of Waterloo,
as a member of Governor Cooper's
staff with the rank of Lieutenant. Colonel
Fuller, as his title now runs,
took an active part in the operations
in France and won an enviable record
as a soldier.

Adding Another Department.

Carpenters have been busy the past
few days in the New York Sample
Shoe Store building a flight of stairs
and making alterations on the second
floor of the building preparatory to
the opening up of a five and ten cents
department. Mr. Lurey has just re-
turned from New York where he
bought goods for the addition.

After Gamblers and Loafers.

Sheriff Reid stated yesterday that
the whole of his force and the rural
policemen have been making things
hot for gamblers, vagrants and "pistol
toters" during the past few days. The
drag-net has brought in 6 pistols, 11
gamblers and two or three vagrants,
while the chase still goes on.

Nelson Farm Sold.

Mr. W. G. Lancaster, who bought
the Nelson farm on the southern edge
of the city a few days ago, resold his
holdings there yesterday to Mr. G. W.
Long, the consideration being \$6,300.
Mr. Lancaster paid \$5,600 for the
property when he bought it.

Two Prominent Citizens Ill.

Col. J. H. Wharton, of Waterloo,
and Mr. W. P. Harris, of Youngs town-
ship, two of the leading citizens of the
county, have been critically ill for
the past several days.

HIGH PRICES ARE NOT JUSTIFIED

President Wilson Makes Specific Pro-
posals to Relieve Cost of Living.

Washington, Aug. 8.—President Wil-
son laid several specific proposals be-
fore congress today for checking the
high cost of living, but at the same
time declared permanent results could
not be expected until peace time basis
were fully restored by ratification of
the peace treaty.

High prices the President told con-
gress were not justified by shortage
of supplies either present or prospec-
tive, but were created in many cases
"artificially and deliberately" by "vici-
ous practices." Retailers, he said,
were responsible in large part for ex-
orbitant prices.

Strikes, the President warned the
labor world, would only make mat-
ters worse and those who sought to
employ threats were only "preparing
their own destruction." Leaders of
organized labor, the President said,
he was sure would presently yield to
second sober thought.

"Illegal" and "criminal" were the
words the President used in charac-
terizing the methods by which some
present day prices have been brought
about.

Present laws, he said, would be en-
ergetically employed to the limit to
force out food hoarders and meet the
situation so far as possible but to
supplement existing statutes he speci-
fically urged the following:

Licensing of all corporations en-
gaged in interstate commerce with
specific regulations designed to se-
cure competitive selling and prevent
"unconscionable profits" in the meth-
od of marketing.

Extension of the food control act
for profiteering.

A law regulating cold storage, lim-
iting the time during which goods
may be held; prescribing a method of
disposing of them if held beyond the
permitted period and requiring that
when released goods bear the date of
storage.

Laws requiring that goods released
from storage for interstate commerce
bear the selling prices at which they
went into storage and requiring that
all goods destined for interstate com-
merce bear the prices at which they
left the hands of the producer.

Enactment of the pending bill for
the control of security issues.

Additional applications for govern-
ment agencies which can supply the
public with full information as to
prices at which retailers buy.

Early ratification of the peace
treaty so that the "free processes of
supply and demand" can operate.

Immediate steps by executive agen-
cies of the government promised by
the President included:

The limiting and controlling of
wheat shipments and credits to facili-
tate the purchase of wheat in such
a way as not to raise, but rather to
lower the price of flour at home.

Sale of surplus stocks of food and
clothing in the hands of the govern-
ment.

The forced withdrawal from storage
and sale of surplus stocks in private
hands.

General recommendations included:
Increase of production.

Careful buying by housewives.

Fair dealing with the people on
the part of producers, middle men and
merchants.

That there be no threats and undue
insistence upon the interest of a single
class.

Correction of "many things" in the
relation between capital and labor in
respect to wages and conditions of
labor.

In concluding the President made
a plea for deliberate, intelligent ac-
tion, reminding congress that an un-
balanced world was looking to the
United States.

"We and we almost alone," he said,
"now hold the world steady. Upon
our steadfastness and self possession
depend the affairs of nations every-
where. It is in this supreme crisis—
this crisis for all mankind—that
America must prove her metal."

Clardy Residence Sold.

The B. L. Clardy brick veneer resi-
dence on West Main street was sold
by Mr. Clardy several days ago to Mr.
D. E. Todd, who recently sold his
home on East Main street to the Lau-
rens Cotton Mills. It is understood
that the property brought \$12,500,
which is probably the highest price
paid for residence property in the
city in a number of years.

BONDS PROPOSED FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Chamber of Commerce In-
terested in Streets

COMMITTEE ASKED TO FIND COST

Much Interest Aroused in Proposition
to Bond City for Street, Water and
Light Improvements. Committee Ap-
pointed to Confer with Another from
the Council.

A movement was inaugurated at the
meeting of the Chamber of Commerce
Monday night to make permanent im-
provements on various streets of the
city, to extend water and sewerage
mains and lighting facilities to streets
not now similarly served. To get the
movement under way a committee
composed of Messrs. William Gelder,
L. G. Balle and Alison Lee was ap-
pointed to confer with another com-
mittee from City Council with the im-
mediate object of securing estimates
from an engineer as to the cost of
such improvements. The matter was
brought before the body when Mr. J.
F. Tolbert asked the co-operation of
the Chamber of Commerce in securing
water and sewerage connections for
Farley Avenue. This committee is to
make its report at the next regular
meeting of the Chamber of Commerce,
which will be September 8th.

The request of Mr. Tolbert precipi-
tated a general discussion of the needs
of the city along these lines. Mayor
Babb, who was in attendance upon
the meeting, stated in reply to Mr. Tol-
bert's request, that the city was not
financially able with the present reve-
nues to undertake work as suggested
on Farley Avenue. He said that the
floating indebtedness of the city was
now more than the city could pay off
from the entire tax receipts to be col-
lected from now through 1921 and that
the city now had on hand barely
enough money to pay operating ex-
penses the rest of the year. Mr. R. R.
Nickels then arose to suggest a policy
of general improvement of the city's
public utilities to meet the urgent
needs of the citizens and to keep
abreast of neighboring cities. He said
that the time was very propitious for
such an undertaking as many travel-
ing salesmen and others were seeking
places to live and conditions ought to
be made such that they would like to
make their home here. Various opin-
ions were expressed as to the con-
templated improvements to be made,
but any expression as to specific im-
provements was reserved until the
committee appointed to confer with
the City Council committee had made
its report.

The committee charged with con-
fering with City Council in regard to
a rate for electric cooking reported
the Council was unable to make a rate
when the committee went before it on
account of the uncertainty then exist-
ing as to what the city would have to
pay for power itself. Mayor Babb
rose to state that the Council had con-
sidered the matter at the meeting held
that afternoon and had come to an
agreement with Mr. J. F. Harney by
which the city would be relieved of
the expense of installing the electric
equipment and the citizens would get
a rate of 4 cents per kilowatt hour
from the Reedy River Power Com-
pany.

Secretary W. R. McCuen brought to
the attention of the meeting the condi-
tion of the overhead bridge on West
Main street. He reported that the em-
bankment underneath the bridge was
gradually being washed away by wa-
ter and that the indications were that
it had already approached a danger-
ous state. Complaints, he reported,
had already been made to the C. & W.
C. Railroad but that no relief was in
sight. On motion of Mr. Lee the sec-
retary was instructed to take up the
matter by letter with the Railroad
Commission with the hope of having
the situation remedied. A committee
was also appointed to confer with the
railroad officials in regard to improv-
ing the large area between the Robert-
son property and the railroad. Mr.
McCuen stated that the officials had
previously expressed a desire to co-
operate with the city in improving this
lot.

Miss Lillian Blackwell, of Darlington,
is the guest of Misses Hattie Kate
and Ruth Easterby.